

BOOK NOTICE

A manual of the genera of beetles of America, north of Mexico; keys for the determination of the families, subfamilies, tribes and genera of Coleoptera with a systematic list of the genera and higher groups, by J. Chester Bradley. Dow Illston & Co., Ithaca, N. Y. Pp. x + 360. 1930. Lithoprinted—(Boards, \$5; Cloth, \$6).

A year or so ago one of our leading coleopterists lamented to the reviewer that if he could only be relieved of his other professional duties for the next decade he might be able to produce a new work on the genera of Nearctic Coleoptera. While the coleopterists have lamented, an entomologist has acted! For the third time in the history of the study of the Nearctic Coleoptera a monumental work has been achieved by one not primarily a student of beetles.*

Bradley's *Genera of Beetles* brings up to date the keys contained in LeConte and Horn's *Classification* (1883). It provides a book to which, in conjunction with an introductory textbook of entomology and Leng's *Catalogue*, the beginner in coleopterology can go. It is, on the other hand, a work indispensable to the advanced student who would keep abreast of the latest developments in his field.

Professor Bradley has made every attempt to make his work present the most modern aspects of his subject. Founded in general on Leng's *Catalogue* (1920), he has not hesitated, for instance, to present Sloan's (1923) entirely different sequence of tribes of Carabidæ, to adopt a separate suborder (Archostemata) for the Micromalthidæ and Cupedidæ, or to unite the Galerucinæ and Halticinæ in a single subfamily. On the other hand, he retains such peculiarities of Leng's system as the families Omophronidæ and Trogidæ and the abolition of the Heteromera.

The keys are complete with the exception of occasional genera mentioned in a foot-note. An important exception should, how-

*I refer, of course, to Henshaw's *List*, and Blatchley's *Coleoptera of Indiana*.

ever, be noted in the keys to the tribes Bolitocharini, Zyrini, and Aleocharini of the Aleocharinæ in which only 7, 22, and 12 genera are considered out of totals of 24, 48, and 34 genera respectively. This, of course, is due to our fragmentary knowledge of these groups.

One might wish that Professor Bradley had given more attention to subgenera, but to have done so probably would have unduly extended the book. The writer feels that subgenera serve the admirable purpose of enabling one to remain conservative regarding the acceptance of genera without giving the appearance of "lumping." In several cases in the Carabidæ parallel keys to genera have been given, one for Casey's genera, the other for a more conservative system. In this connection Casey's segregates of *Amara* have been omitted when they are, in reality, no less valid than his segregates of *Pterostichus*, *Platynus*, *Anisodactylus*, etc.

The reviewer notes with interest that, whereas, Professor Bradley has not accepted his thesis that the Silphinae constitute a subfamily of Staphylinidæ, the adequate separation of these groups has received usually careful attention. It is unfortunate for the relatively highly specialized Leiodidæ to precede the Silphinae and Staphylinidæ in the Staphylinoid series.

It would have been helpful if complete bibliographical references had been given for those citations not included in the bibliography of Leng's *Catalogue* or its *Supplement*.

The following recent changes in the names of genera may be noted: *Omaseus* (p. 30) = *Melanius* Bon; *Micromaseus* (p. 30) = *Americomaseus* Csiki; *Casnonia* (p. 39) = *Colliuris* subg. *Odacanthella* Liebke; *Brachypterolus* (p. 146) = *Anthrribus* Geoff. There are three American species of *Amphizoa* (p. 43), not two.

Finally, the reviewer would like to see the present work followed by a handbook of our entire Coleopterous fauna executed along the lines of, for instance, Porta's *Fauna Coleopterorum Italica*. The work could be done! Most of the barriers are psychological!—MELVILLE H. HATCH.